Graduate Awards Competition and CSM Harmonized Scholarships

GSE Scholarship Team:

Rebekah DeVinney, Director for Scholarships
Erik van Tilburg Bernardes, Student Lead
Cameron Vanderwey, Stipend and Scholarship Officer

November 18, 2022

The University of Calgary and the City of Calgary are located on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (consisting of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Housekeeping

- Please remain muted with video off unless you would like to ask a question.
- There will be breaks throughout the workshop for questions. You can use the chat or turn your video and mic.
- Slides will be emailed to all registrants and posted on the GSE website.

Outline

- Scholarships Awarded through GAC
- How to apply: focus on CSM Awards
- Application parts
- Tips and Tricks for a strong scholarship application
- Where to get help

Scholarships offered in GAC

Awards Offered through GAC

- **Open to all eligible U of C thesis based graduate students**
  - Doctoral Entrance Scholarships
  - Izaak Walton Killam Doctoral Scholarships
  - Open Doctoral Scholarships
  - Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships
  - Special Awards
  - Some Indigenous Awards
  - Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) – International

  - GAC application required for program AGES
  - Citizenship requirements vary by award

CSM Scholarship Harmonization

- Students fill out multiple applications for scholarships
  - Transcript requests
  - Letters of reference
  - Application content (proposal, accomplishments)

- Harmonization with GAC streamlines application process
  - One application for multiple awards
  - Institutional memory
    - Transcripts
    - Letters of reference (1 year)
    - Application contents

New since 2021:
Scholarships offered through CSM and Institutes

- CSM Scholarship
- Achievers in Medical Science Doctoral
- Eleanor Mackie Doctoral
- WH Davies
- ACHRI Graduate Scholarship
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute Scholarships (12)
- Charbonneau Cancer Institute Scholarships
- Department of Medicine Scholarship

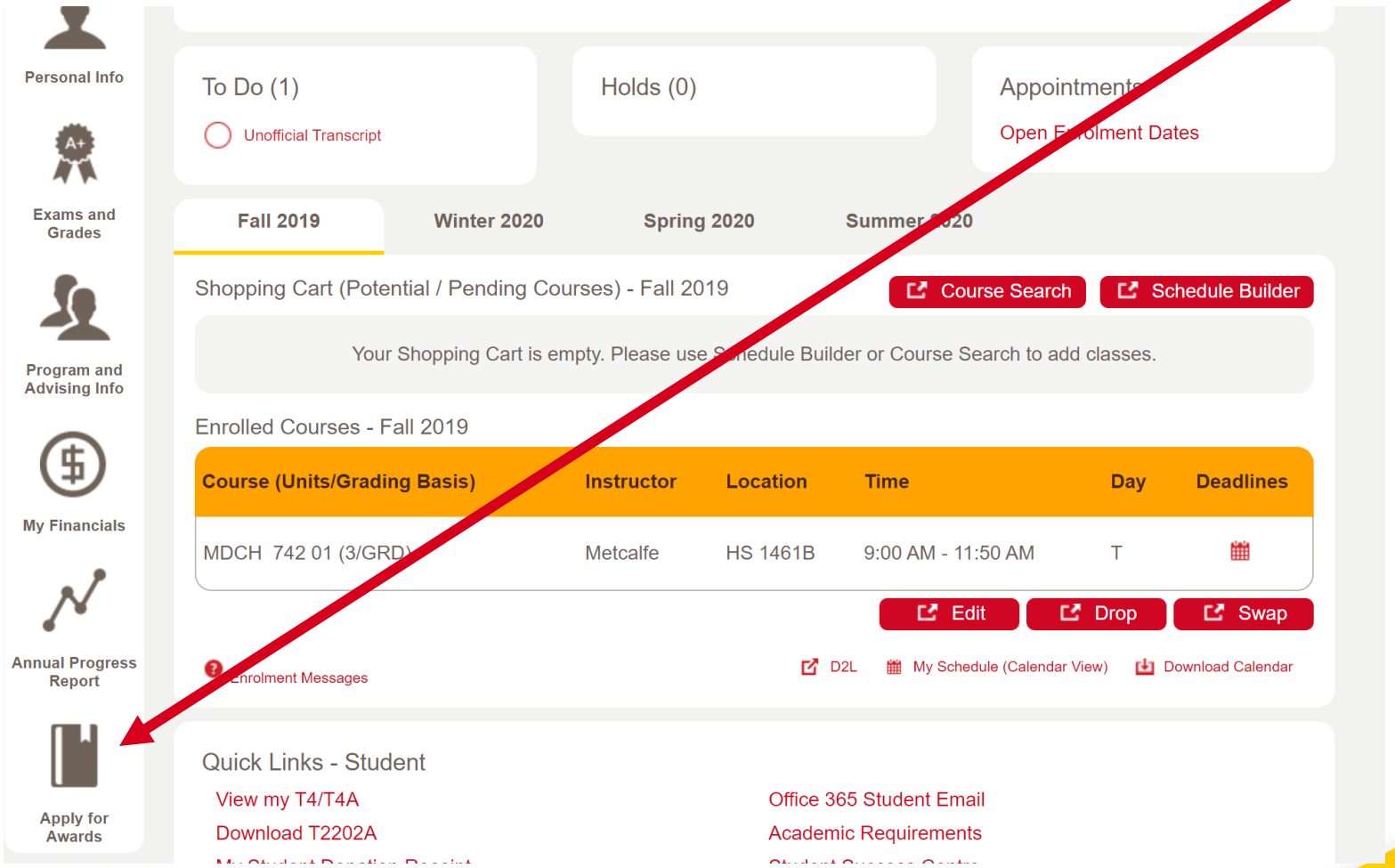
Getting started with your GAC application

What do you need to submit?

- Online application through Student Centre
  - Select Awards
  - 2 References
  - Academic History
  - Scholarship and Award History (up to 10)
  - Research Abstract (250 words) and Proposal (thesis) (800 words)
  - Bibliography (1000 words)
  - Presentations and Contributions (1000 words)
  - Leadership and Interpersonal Skills (800 words)
  - Allowable Inclusions (250 words)
- CSM Awards: GAC Harmonized Award Attachment

Where to Find Application?

my.ucalgary.ca -> Academic -> Student Centre



Awards Application

Student Awards Application

The Program Application Deadline will display "TBD" until you select at least one award in your online application.
If your program deadline expires, you will be unable to edit or submit the application.
The definition of application status can be found here

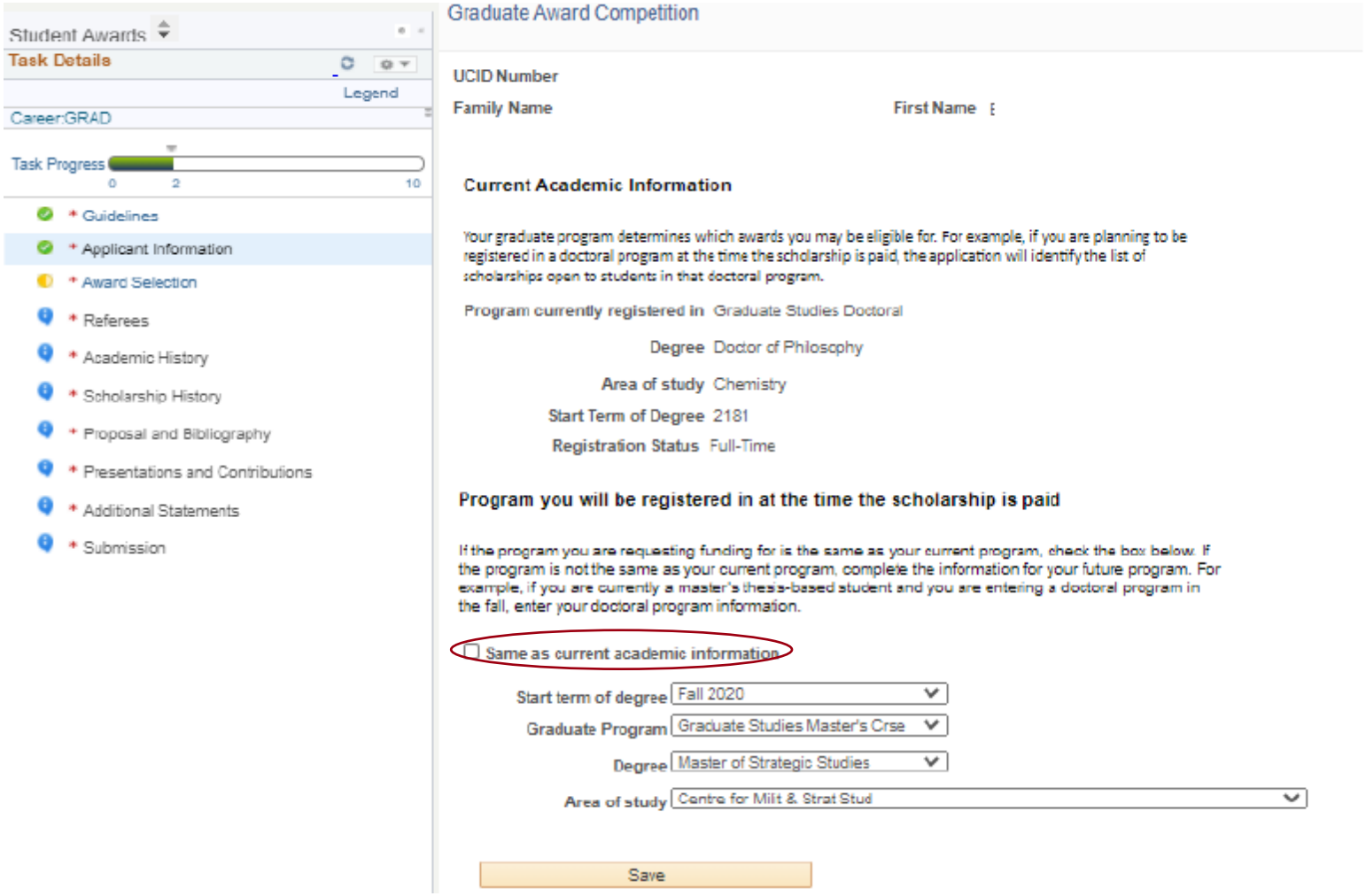
Your existing applications View All | First 1-2 of 2 Last

Award Year	Name	Application Number	Status			Program Application Deadline	
2020	Graduate Award Competition	10005727	In Progress	Edit	View	TBD	Cancel
2019	Graduate Award Competition	10000550	Submitted		View	25 Jan 2019	

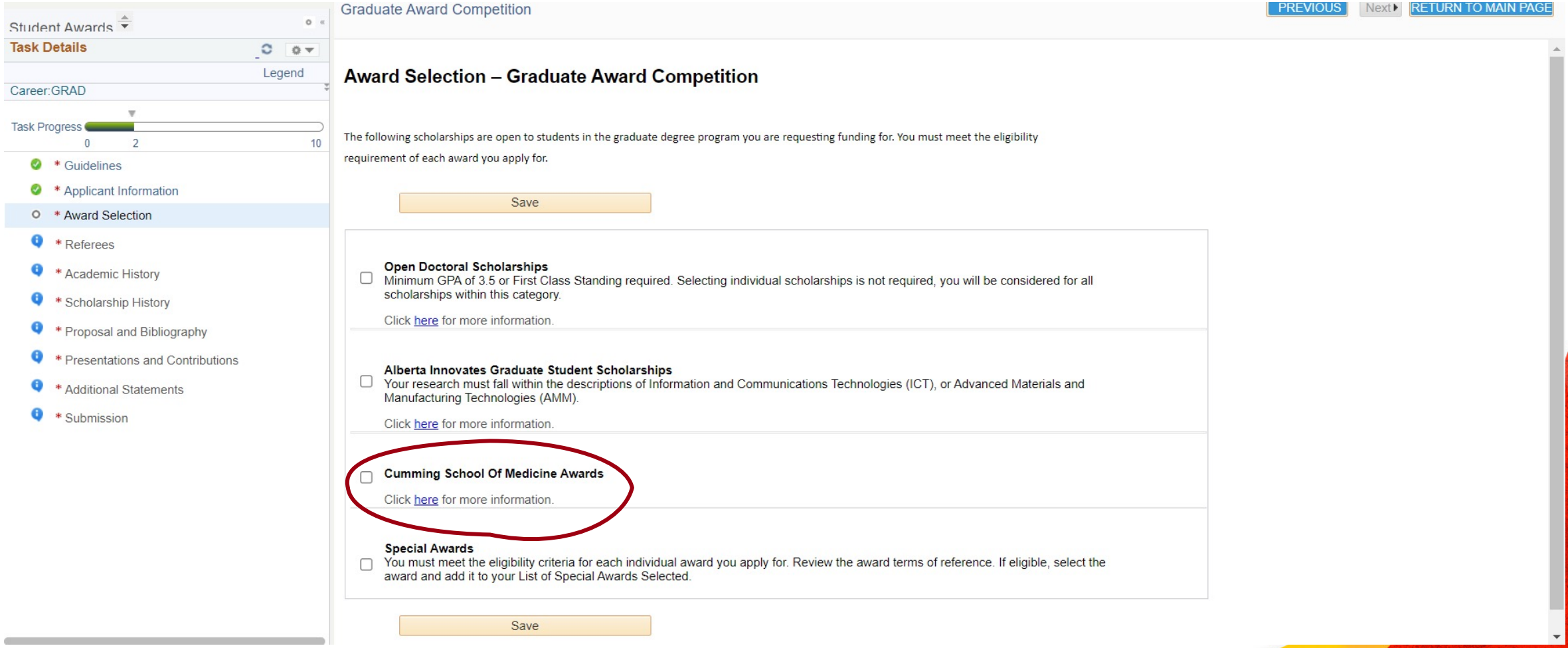
Create New Application

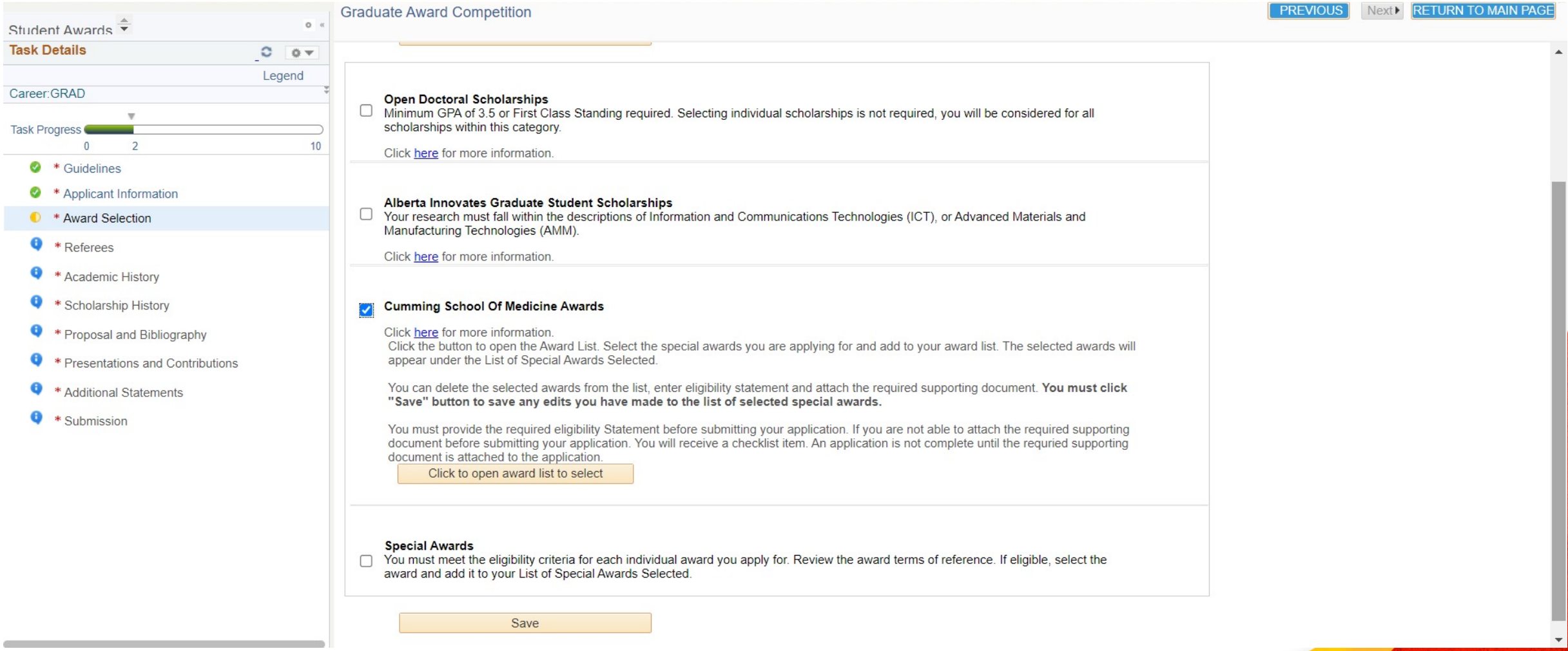
To create a new application, select one of the links below:
Graduate Award Competition
Graduate Award Competition

Academic Information



Award Selection




Student Awards
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Career:GRAD
Task Progress
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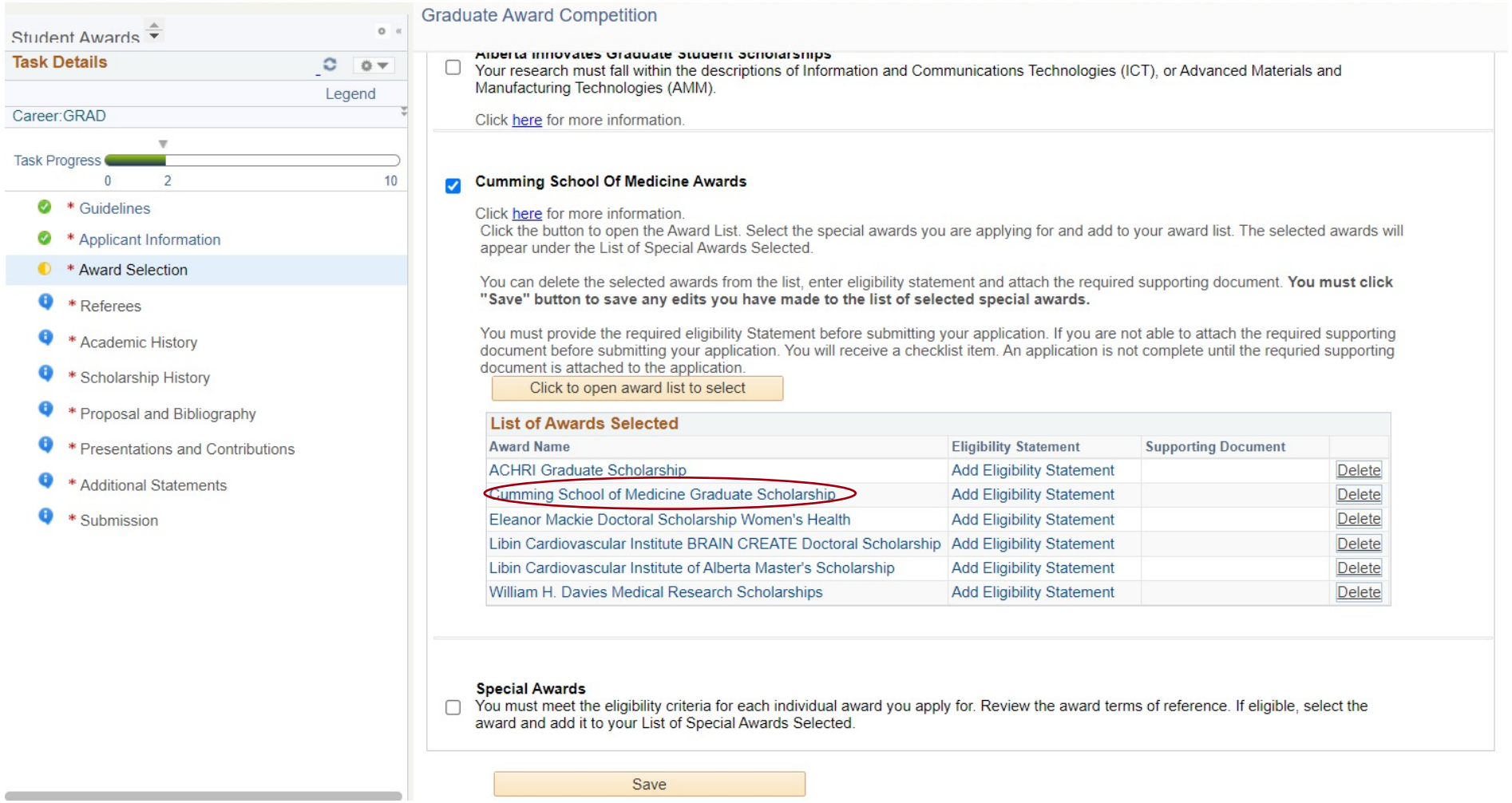
* Guidelines
* Applicant Information
* Award Selection
* Referees
* Academic History
* Scholarship History
* Proposal and Bibliography
* Presentations and Contributions
* Additional Statements
* Submission
Graduate Award Competition
PREVIOUS
Next
RETURN TO MAIN PAGE
Open Doctoral Scholarships
Minimum GPA of 3.5 or First Class Standing required. Selecting individual scholarships is not required, you will be considered for all scholarships within this category.
Click here for more information.
Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships
Your research must fall within the descriptions of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), or Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies (AMM).
Click here for more information.
Cumming School Of Medicine Awards
Click here for more information.
Click the button to open the Award List. Select the special awards you are applying for and add to your award list. The selected awards will appear under the List of Special Awards Selected.
You can delete the selected awards from the list, enter eligibility statement and attach the required supporting document. You must click "Save" button to save any edits you have made to the list of selected special awards.
You must provide the required eligibility Statement before submitting your application. If you are not able to attach the required supporting document before submitting your application. You will receive a checklist item. An application is not complete until the requried supporting document is attached to the application.
Click to open award list to select
Special Awards
You must meet the eligibility criteria for each individual award you apply for. Review the award terms of reference. If eligible, select the award and add it to your List of Special Awards Selected.
Save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List of Awards Selected
Award Name
Eligibility Statement
Supporting Document
ACHRI Graduate Scholarship
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
Cumming School of Medicine Graduate Scholarship
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
Eleanor Mackie Doctoral Scholarship Women's Health
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
Libin Cardiovascular Institute BRAIN CREATE Doctoral Scholarship
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta Master's Scholarship
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
William H. Davies Medical Research Scholarships
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Save

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Cumming School of Medicine Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship was established to attract the best graduate students to the Cumming School of Medicine and train them to become leading researchers.

Donor Cumming School of Medicine

Field of Study Unrestricted

Value $20,000

Number Variable

Duration Two years for master's; four years for master's transferring to doctoral; four years for doctoral

Eligibility Open to students registered full-time in a thesis-based graduate program in the Cumming School of Medicine and/or students registered full-time in a thesis-based program who are supervised by a Faculty member with a primary appointment in the Cumming School of Medicine. Students must be registered in their first year or in the first semester of their second year at time of the award start date.

Applicants must complete a statement of eligibility (approximately 400 words) describing how they meet the eligibility criteria.

Students are required to submit additional documentation, including a supervisor CV and training environment statement. Complete instructions on what is required found at https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/gse/current-students/scholarships (https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/gse/current-students/scholarships)

This scholarship will be matched each year by $10,000 from the recipient's supervisor.
Students funded through the Cumming School of Medicine Graduate Scholarship are required to apply for all provincial, national or international scholarships for which they are eligible. Students who win other awards will have their Cumming School of Medicine scholarship funding adjusted as follows:

- Students winning one or more awards totaling up to $14,999 will have their funding adjusted for a combined total of $33,000
- Students winning one or more awards totaling between $15,000 and $29,999 will have their funding adjusted for a combined total of $35,000
- Students winning one or more awards totaling $30,000 or more will be provided with a $5,000 top up.

Students awarded a CSM scholarship are not eligible to hold a CSM Institute scholarship.

A cost-sharing agreement will be made between the Cumming School and the supervisor, to maintain the values stated above.

Citizenship Unrestricted

Where Tenable University of Calgary, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Category CSM/Institute

Apply Students should consult the Graduate Award Competition Guidelines at https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/opportunities/gac (https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/opportunities/gac) and complete the Graduate Award Scholarship application through the Student Centre.

Deadline Competition opens November 1. Deadlines vary by program. Contact your Graduate Program Administrator.

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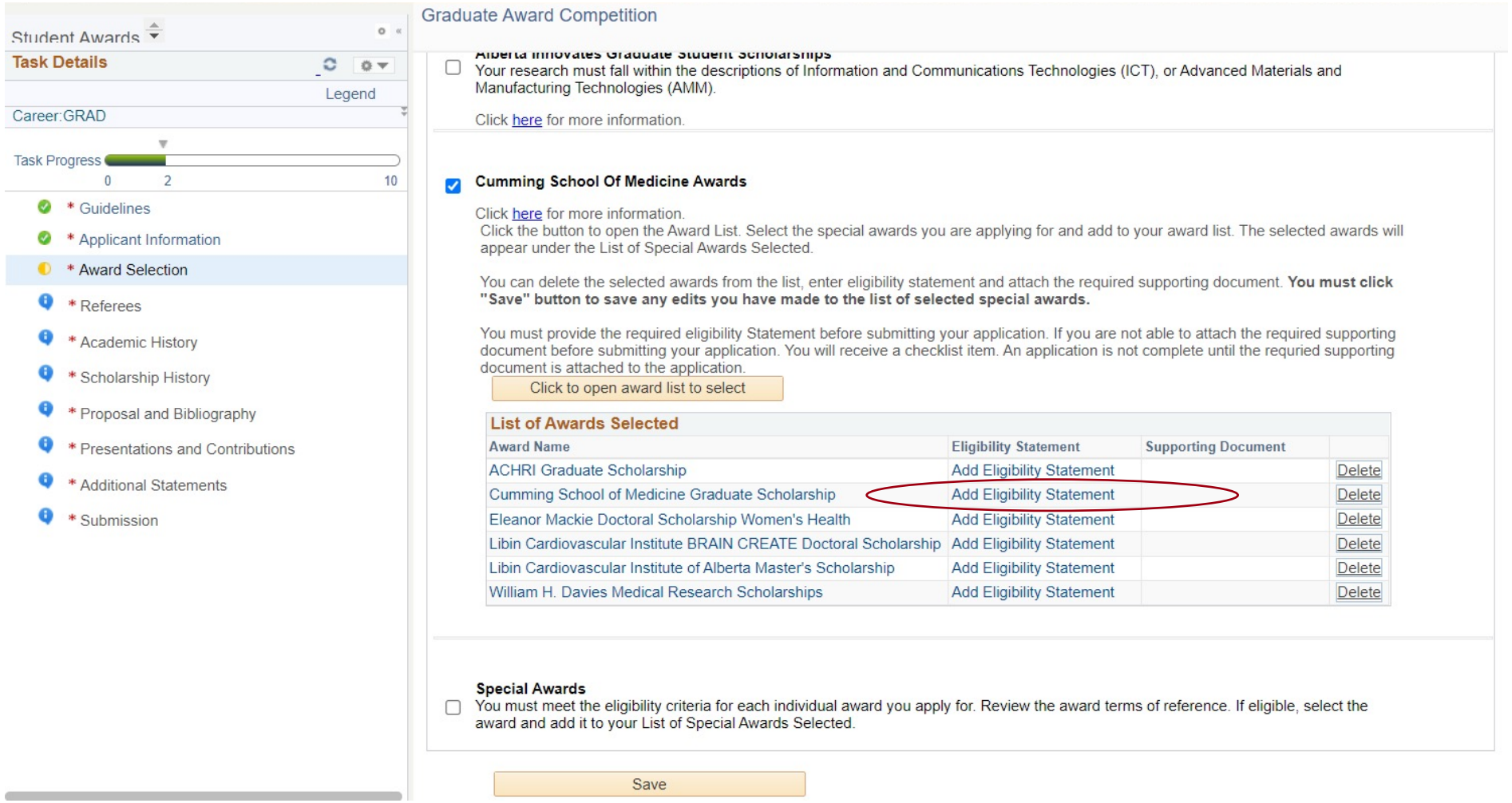
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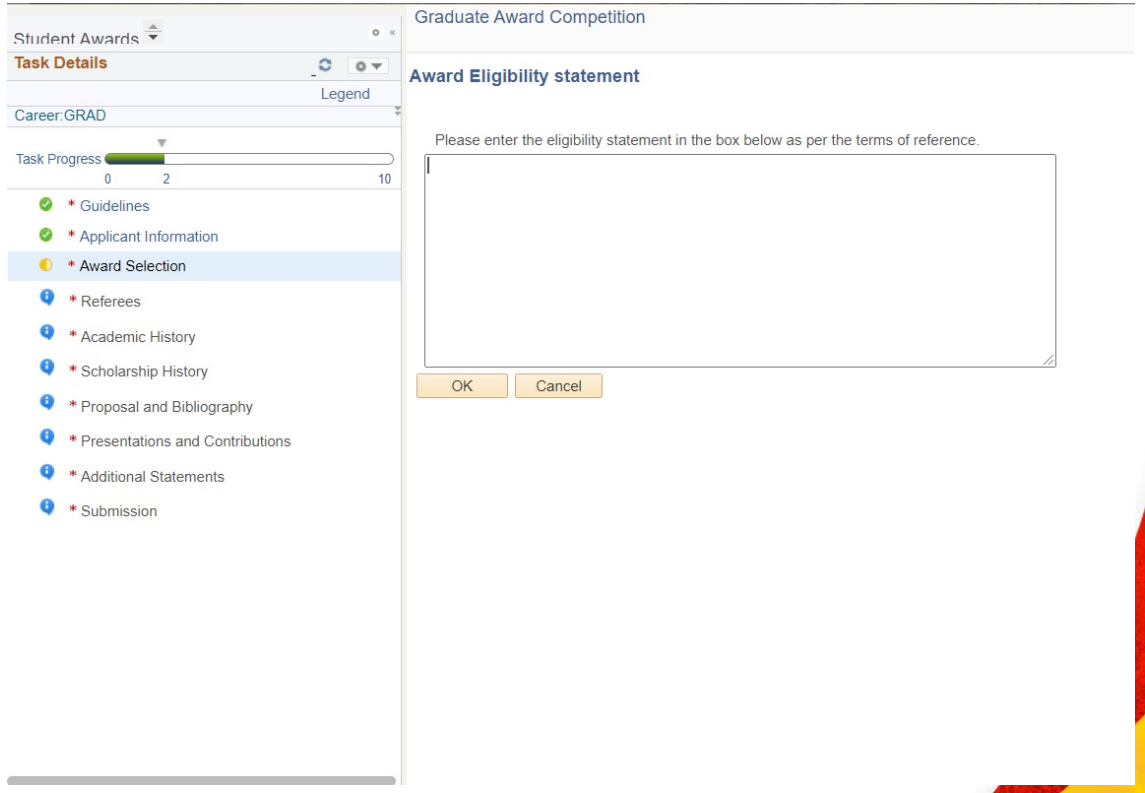
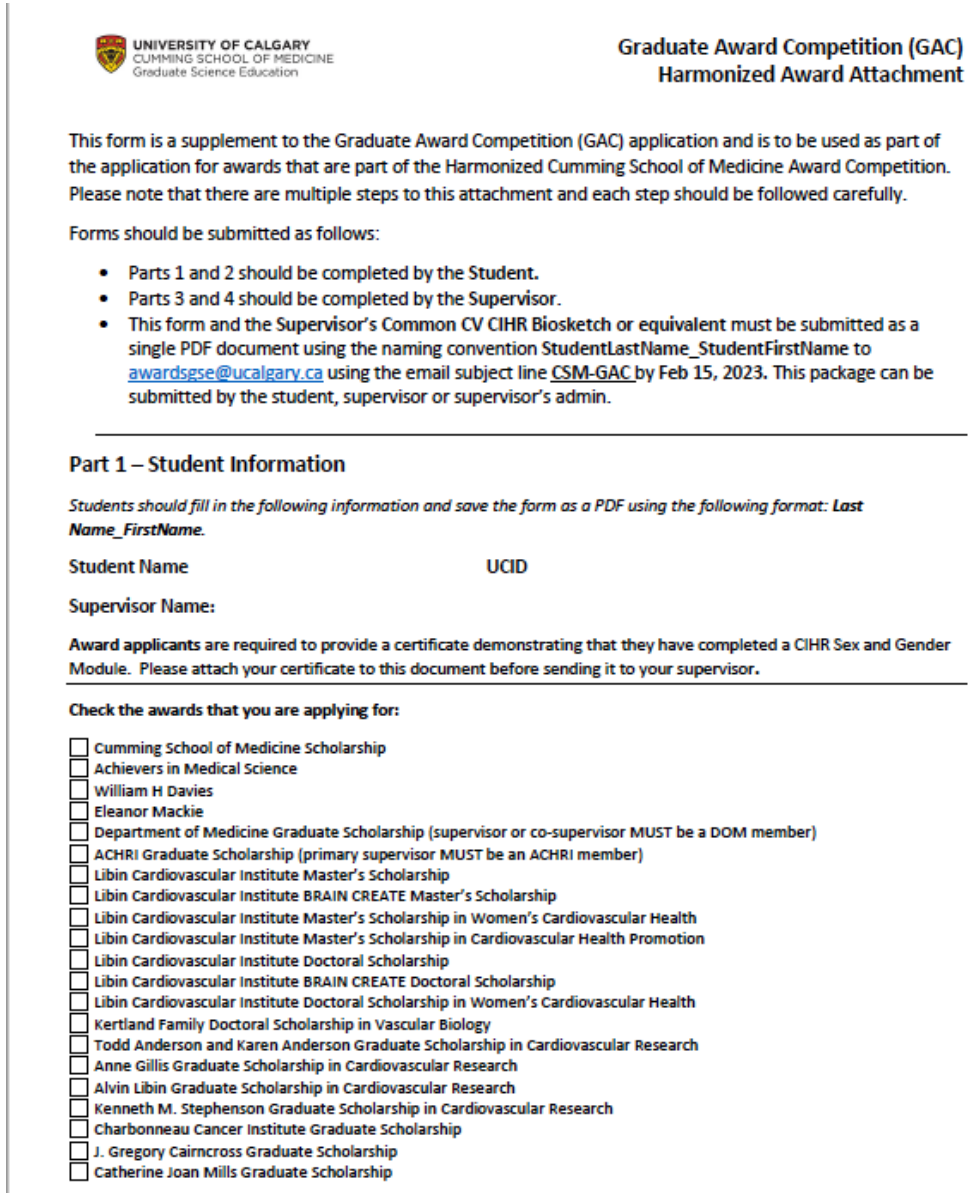
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
William H. Davies Medical Research Scholarships
Add Eligibility Statement
Delete
Special Awards
You must meet the eligibility criteria for each individual award you apply for. Review the award terms of reference. If eligible, select the award and add it to your List of Special Awards Selected.
Save

Eligibility Statement

- ~400 words
- Page will look the same for each award, content will differ
- Information to enter will be in awards Terms of Reference or on websites
- All CSM awards have eligibility statements
  - Must fill something in for application to be complete





UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Graduate Science Education

Graduate Award Competition (GAC)
Harmonized Award Attachment

This form is a supplement to the Graduate Award Competition (GAC) application and is to be used as part of the application for awards that are part of the Harmonized Cumming School of Medicine Award Competition. Please note that there are multiple steps to this attachment and each step should be followed carefully.

Forms should be submitted as follows:

- Parts 1 and 2 should be completed by the **Student.**
- Parts 3 and 4 should be completed by the **Supervisor.**
- This form and the **Supervisor's Common CV CIHR Biosketch or equivalent** must be submitted as a single PDF document using the naming convention **StudentLastName_StudentFirstName** to awardsgse@ucalgary.ca using the email subject line **CSM-GAC** by **Feb 15, 2023.** This package can be submitted by the student, supervisor or supervisor's admin.

Part 1 – Student Information

Students should fill in the following information and save the form as a PDF using the following format: Last Name_FirstName.

Student Name **UCID**

Supervisor Name:

Award applicants are required to provide a certificate demonstrating that they have completed a CIHR Sex and Gender Module. Please attach your certificate to this document before sending it to your supervisor.

Check the awards that you are applying for:

- ☐ Cumming School of Medicine Scholarship
- ☐ Achievers in Medical Science
- ☐ William H Davies
- ☐ Eleanor Mackie
- ☐ Department of Medicine Graduate Scholarship (supervisor or co-supervisor MUST be a DOM member)
- ☐ ACHRI Graduate Scholarship (primary supervisor MUST be an ACHRI member)
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute Master's Scholarship
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute BRAIN CREATE Master's Scholarship
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute Master's Scholarship in Women's Cardiovascular Health
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute Master's Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute Doctoral Scholarship
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute BRAIN CREATE Doctoral Scholarship
- ☐ Libin Cardiovascular Institute Doctoral Scholarship in Women's Cardiovascular Health
- ☐ Kertland Family Doctoral Scholarship in Vascular Biology
- ☐ Todd Anderson and Karen Anderson Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
- ☐ Anne Gillis Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
- ☐ Alvin Libin Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
- ☐ Kenneth M. Stephenson Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
- ☐ Charbonneau Cancer Institute Graduate Scholarship
- ☐ J. Gregory Cairncross Graduate Scholarship
- ☐ Catherine Joan Mills Graduate Scholarship

GAC Harmonized Award Attachment

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- All CSM Awards require this attachment
  - GSE Website, scholarships page
  - ACHRI, Libin, Charbonneau and Department of Medicine websites
  - Students and supervisors fill out sections
  - Only fill out ONCE for CSM awards
- Student information
  - Awards applied to
  - Attach Sex and Gender course certificate
    - https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49347.html
  - Training Expectations
  - Student saves form as Last Name_First Name before giving to supervisor

GAC Harmonized Award Attachment

Part 2 – Supervisor Confirmation of Funding Commitment

Student Name:	**UCID:**
The **Cumming School of Medicine** and **ACHRI Graduate Scholarship** will be matched each year by **$10,000** from the supervisor and/or co-supervisor's funds or another relevant source. I agree to these conditions and to all other conditions detailed in the award terms of reference. Supervisor signature: Date: Co-supervisor signature (if applicable): Date:	
[redacted]	
The following **Libin Cardiovascular Institute Scholarships** will be matched each year by **$12,500** from the supervisor and/or co-supervisors funds: • Master's Scholarship • BRAIN CREATE Master's Scholarship • Master's Scholarship in Women's Cardiovascular Health • Master's Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion • Doctoral Scholarship • BRAIN CREATE Doctoral Scholarship • Doctoral Scholarship in Women's Cardiovascular Health • Kertland Family Doctoral Scholarship in Vascular Biology I agree to these conditions and to all other conditions detailed in the award terms of reference. Supervisor signature: Date: Co-supervisor signature (if applicable): Date:	

Supervisors of students applying to CSM awards will be in the pool for reviewers for the CSM Harmonized Scholarship Review Committee in the next competition year.

- Supervisor information
  - Confirmation of funding commitment
  - Training Environment
  - Common CV CIHR Biosketch
- Attachment saved as a single PDF file
  - Send to: awardsgse@ucalgary.ca with subject line CSM-GAC
  - Attachment can be sent by student, supervisor or admin

Adjudication

- GAC Online Application adjudicated for GAC awards (Killam, Open, Entrance, AI, Special Awards, Indigenous, AGES-International) by FGS
  - Adjudication uses FGS criteria. Applications are scored and ranked

- CSM Awards adjudicated separately
  - GAC score and ranking for online application
  - ”Secondary” Review of Harmonized Awards Attachment
  - GSE review committee decides CSM, AIMS, Eleanor Mackie, WH Davies
  - Institutes adjudicate applications for their own awards

Harmonized Award Attachment Review

- Supervisor Portion
  - Does the supervisor/co-supervisor have funding to support the student's project?
  - Is the student going to an active research environment
  - Is there a well-developed plan for training?

- Student Portion
  - Is the student eligible for the award?
  - Are there criteria not covered in the GAC application regarding the student that we need to consider?

Deadlines

- GAC Online Application for all CSM programs: Jan 9, 2023 by 11:59 PM MST

- GAC Harmonized Award Attachment: Feb 15, 2023 by 11:59 PM MST

- Incomplete or uncompiled attachments will be returned to the student to complete. If completed attachment is not received by Mar 1, 2023 student will be ineligible for CSM category awards

Award Eligibility

CSM and AIMS Doctoral Eligibility

- CSM Scholarship
  - In first year or first semester of second year at award start date (May)
  - M.Sc. and direct entry to Ph.D. in thesis-based programs
  - Supervisor has a primary appointment in CSM
  - Citizenship is unrestricted
  - Eligibility statement: Supervisor affiliation and time in program
- Achievers in Medical Science Doctoral
  - First year direct entry to Ph.D.
  - Citizenship unrestricted
  - Students must be registered in a CSM graduate program
  - Eligibility statement: Student affiliation and degree stream
- Students cannot already hold major awards to be eligible for CSM and AIMS
  - CSM and AIMS holders are required to apply for all awards they are eligible for

Eleanor Mackie Doctoral Scholarship in Women's Health And WH Davies Medical Research Scholarship

- Eleanor Mackie
  - Doctoral students in CSM graduate programs
  - Research area: Microbiology and Immunology pertaining to women's health
  - Eligibility statement AND research proposal used to determine fit to mandate
- WH Davies
  - Full time students in thesis based graduate programs
    - Students cannot hold more than $3,000 in award funding (includes monetary awards, scholarship, studentships, etc.) in Fall 2022-Winter 2023 academic year
    - Students must have a GPA equal to or higher than 3.3 (B+) over the graduate courses taken to date
  - Supervisor with primary appointment in CSM
  - Eligibility statement: supervisor affiliation and funding

ACHRI Graduate Scholarship

- Open to students registered full-time in a graduate degree program (MSc & PhD) whose primary field of study is in Child Health and Wellness
- Must be under the supervision of ACHRI member
- Scholarship requires supervisor matching
- Eligibility statement (400 words) describing how their research supports child health and wellness
- Citizenship: Unrestricted
- 2-year award

Contact: Laurel Ryan (laurel.ryan@albertahealthservices.ca) and

Julia Klenin (jklenin@ucalgary.ca)

Libin Scholarships

- Must be registered in a Masters or Doctoral program within CSM
- Must be under supervision of a full Libin member
- All Libin scholarships require supervisor matching
  - Exception: Giving Day Awards
- Citizenship: Unrestricted
- Students can only hold one Libin scholarship at a time.

Contact: Amanda Wagner at amanda.wagner@ucalgary.ca
Dr. Satish Raj at satish.raj@ucalgary.ca

Libin Scholarships

- Libin Masters and Doctoral Graduate Scholarships
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research supports cardiovascular health
- Libin Masters and Doctoral Graduate Scholarships in Women's Cardiovascular Health
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research supports women’s cardiovascular health
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute BRAIN CREATE Masters and Doctoral Scholarship
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research supports cardiovascular health and how it involves the development of neurotechnologies and have a potential commercial spinoff
  - Recipients must agree to BRAIN CREATE Terms of Reference

Libin Scholarships

- Libin MSc Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Health Promotion
  - Must be under supervision of a full member of the LCI and the Person to Population (P2) research collaboration group, whose research focuses on Cardiovascular Health Promotion.
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research relates to cardiovascular health promotion
- Kertland Family Doctoral Scholarship in Vascular Biology
  - Applicants must be pursuing basic vascular biology research into the mechanistic basis of vessel contraction, angiogenesis or arterial pathophysiology
  - At the time of application, students must be within 24 months of their initial registration.
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research meets the criteria above

Libin Scholarships

- Giving Day Awards (open to Masters and Doctoral students)
  - Eligibility Statement: Describe how research supports cardiovascular health
    - Todd and Karen Anderson Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
    - Alvin Libin Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
    - Kenneth M. Stephenson Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research
    - Anne M. Gillis Graduate Scholarship in Cardiovascular Research

Department of Medicine Scholarships

- Open to students registered in CSM graduate programs
- Supervisor or co-supervisor must be full member of the Department of Medicine
- Supervisor must be an Early Career Investigator within 84 months of initial appointment, excluding leaves of absence
- One year awards
  - MSc: $12,500 + $12,500 supervisor contribution
  - PhD: $17,500 + $12,500 supervisor contribution
- https://www.departmentofmedicine.com/csm-department-of-medicine-graduate-scholarship/

Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute

- Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute Graduate Scholarship
  - Eligibility: how research supports cancer research
  - MSc and PhD, 1 yr award
- J. Gregory Cairncross Graduate Scholarship
  - $1000, 1 year
  - Supervisor must be a full member of the Charbonneau Institute
  - Students must self identify as member of equity deserving group
  - Eligibility statement: Non-intrusive, non-trauma statement outlining eligibility
- Catherine Joan Mills Graduate Scholarship
  - $2,000, 1 year
  - Supervisor must be a full member of the Charbonneau Institute
  - Canadian Citizen/PR

Alberta Innovates, Killam and Open Doctoral

- You must meet the eligibility criteria for **each** award you are applying for.
  - Terms of reference for the Entrance, Killam, Open Doctoral, and Special Awards can be found on the Graduate Award Database.
    [https://iac01.ucalgary.ca/FGSA/Public/PublicHome.aspx]
  - Terms for the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships can be found at https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/graduate-student-scholarships/
- Eligibility for the Killam and Open Doctoral categories requires a first-class average, in the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent). At the University of Calgary that is an **average of 3.5 or higher**.

Program Quotas

For the Entrance and Killam Doctoral Scholarship: Each graduate program is allocated a certain number of spots to forward applications

- Some programs are more transparent than others in this regards (e.g., will inform students that have been forwarded). Please speak with your program in late February/early March if you have not been told either way.

- All Open Doctoral, Special Awards and Alberta Innovates applications are forwarded to the competition, no Graduate Program quotas

Questions?

Writing a strong scholarship application

Top Reasons Good Students Don’t Get Funded

- Not applying!
- Not following instructions – i.e. addressing criteria/stretching rules.
- Frustrating evaluators by making material hard to find.
- Content, context and/or impact of research not clearly stated.
- Proposal lacks hypothesis/research objective, and has insufficient detail in the methods.
- Not addressing possible weaknesses in the application.
- A generic letter of reference. The letter is positive but gives no specifics and does not address criteria.

How to create a strong scholarship application

- **Start early**
  - Writing a strong application takes time and planning. Make a schedule so that you can meet the competition deadlines and submit with confidence.

- **Know what you are applying for**
  - Read the terms of reference to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria and understand what is required to complete the application.
  - Check the TO DO LIST --- is it complete?

The application

- Summary of the proposal (lay abstract)
- Research proposal (1 page)
  - Bibliography/Citations (+1 page)
- Two referee assessments
- Transcripts
  - Uploaded to Research Portal

Top Things the Adjudicator Wants To Know

- What is this person going to do and is the research feasible?
- What will be the outcomes and their **impact**? Is it new? Who will care?
- Is this a good investment?
- Do I have a picture of who this person is?

*****Most scholarships fund the student, not just the project*****

Scan Test:

- Have someone outside your field read you application ***quickly*** (scan it, ~5 minutes).
- What major point(s) do they take away from it? Is it what you wanted them to?

Selection Criteria: online GAC reviewed by FGS

- 40 % Academic Excellence
  - Transcripts
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 40 % Research Potential
  - Research proposal
  - Presentations and Contributions
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 20% Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills
  - Leadership Statement
  - Reference assessments (x2)

Selection Criteria: online GAC reviewed at FGS

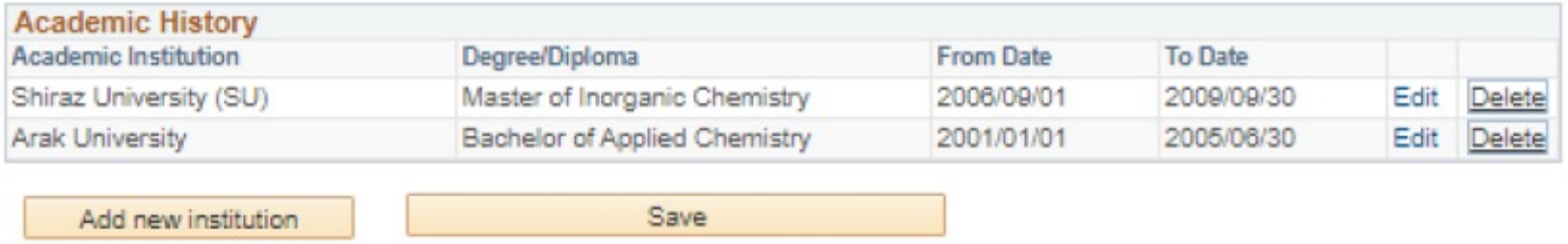
- 40 % Academic Excellence
  - Transcripts
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 40 % Research Potential
  - Research proposal
  - Presentations and Contributions
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 20% Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills
  - Leadership Statement
  - Reference assessments (x2)

Academic Excellence (40 %)

- As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions
  - Academic record (first class average, 3.5)
  - Scholarships and awards held
  - Duration of previous studies
  - Type of program and courses pursued
  - Course load
  - Relative standing (if available)

Academic History - Transcripts

- List **ALL** post-secondary institutions, whether you received a degree from those institutions or not
- Transcripts for all institutions will be uploaded by the Graduate Program Administrator in the program for which you are applying for funding.
- Ensure you delete all duplicate entries and add any missing degree data as required.

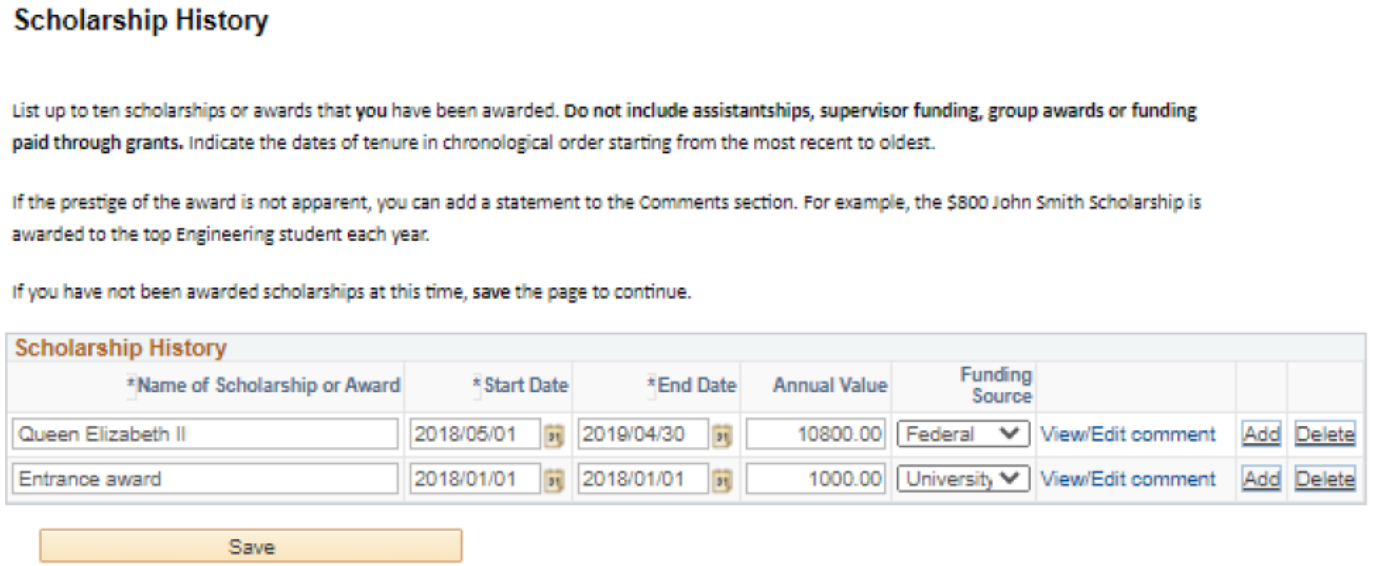


Scholarship History

- Up to 10 scholarships or awards you have received
  - Do not include: assistantships, supervisor funding, group awards or funding paid through grants
  - Balance between prestige, most recent and $ value
- Include dates in chronological order starting from the most recent to the oldest
- Annual value
  - If multi-year award, this is the amount per year
    - E.g. Vanier CGS is $50,000 / year
  - If one time payout, just list that
    - E.g. AGES is $11,000 (one time)

Scholarship History

- Funding Source
  - Federal
  - Non-profit
  - Other
  - Provincial
  - University



Scholarship History

List up to ten scholarships or awards that **you** have been awarded. **Do not include assistantships, supervisor funding, group awards or funding paid through grants.** Indicate the dates of tenure in chronological order starting from the most recent to oldest.

If the prestige of the award is not apparent, you can add a statement to the Comments section. For example, the $800 John Smith Scholarship is awarded to the top Engineering student each year.

If you have not been awarded scholarships at this time, **save** the page to continue.

Scholarship History

*Name of Scholarship or Award	*Start Date	*End Date	Annual Value	Funding Source			
Queen Elizabeth II	2018/05/01	2019/04/30	10800.00	Federal	View/Edit comment	Add	Delete
Entrance award	2018/01/01	2018/01/01	1000.00	University	View/Edit comment	Add	Delete

Save

- View/Edit Comment
  - Use this section to provide context
    - E.g., Did you have to decline the second year of the award, but it is a multi-year award?
    - E.g., CSM is awarded to 15 U Calgary graduate students only (MSc and PhD)

Selection Criteria: online GAC reviewed at FGS

- 40 % Academic Excellence
  - Transcripts
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 40 % Research Potential
  - Research proposal
  - Presentations and Contributions
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 20% Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills
  - Leadership Statement
  - Reference assessments (x2)

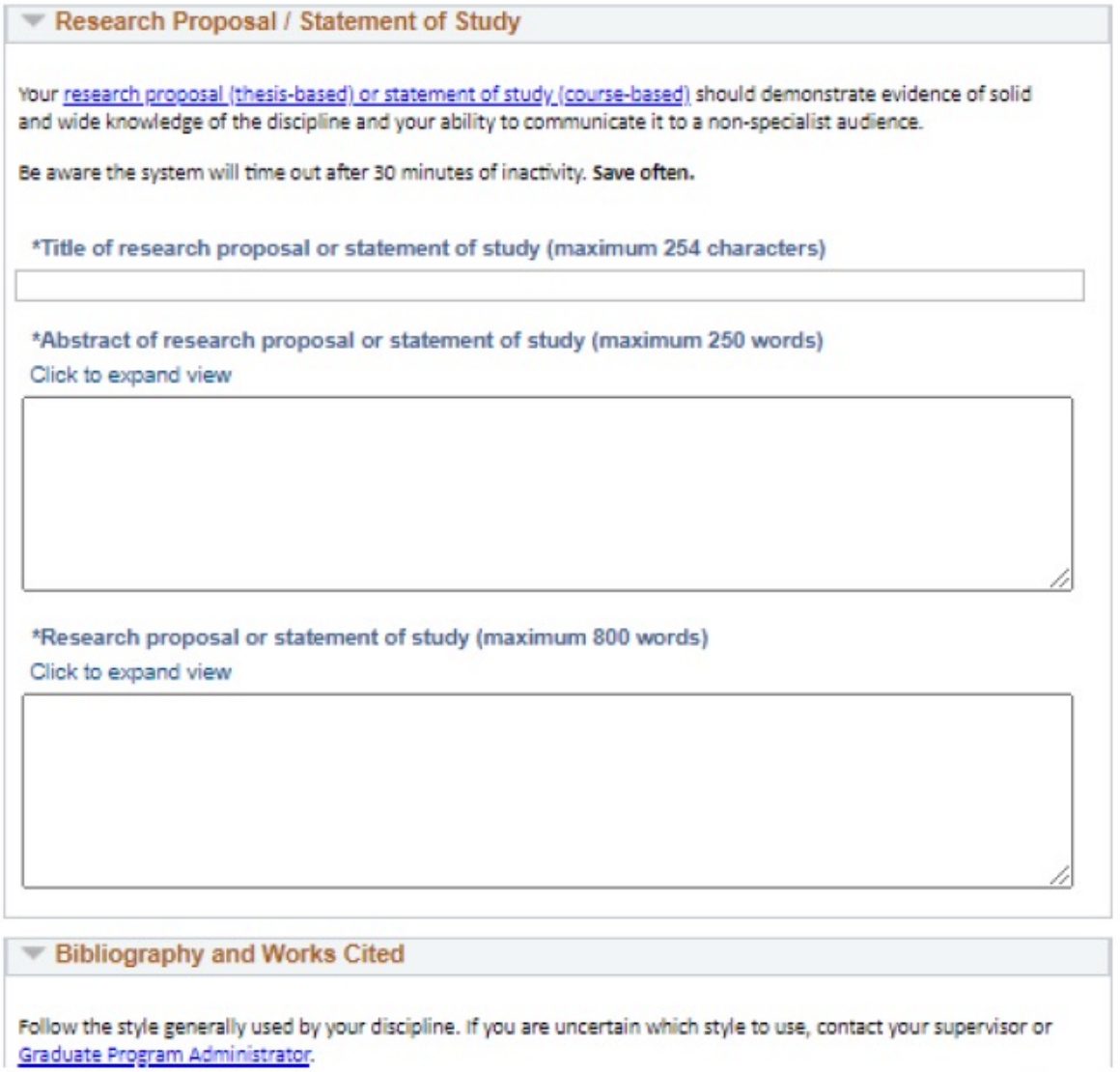
Research Potential (40%)

- As demonstrated by the applicant's research history, interest in discovery, proposed research, potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, and any anticipated outcomes
  - Quality and originality of contributions to research and development
  - Relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research
  - Significance, feasibility, and merit of proposed research
  - Judgment and ability to think critically
  - Ability to apply skills and knowledge
  - Initiative, autonomy and independence
  - Research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with the candidate's academic experience

Research Proposal

- Title of research proposal or statement of study (254 characters)
- Lay abstract (250 words)
  - Summary of whole thesis or statement of study
  - Should capture all major elements of your work
- Research proposal (800 words)
- Bibliography and works cited (1000 words)
  - Format according to your discipline

Research Proposal



Research Proposal

- Try the 30-second rule: can you explain your work to someone not in your field? Remember that many adjudicators come from disciplines other than your own.
  - Peers in unrelated fields are perfect audiences.

- Write clearly and avoid jargon. Aim for language that can be understood by the non-specialist but shows a familiarity with the specialist field.
  - Start strong and capture the reader's attention.
  - Convince committee members that your studies are worth funding.

Research Proposal

- Quality of your proposal
  - Specific, focused and clearly stated research questions/hypothesis
  - Methodology explained clearly
  - Significance and expected contributions to research

- Think about
  - What is new and important about your work?
  - What is the key question and how will you address it?
  - How does your work fit with institutional priorities? What does success look like?
  - What is the impact of your research findings? Who will it benefit?
    - Ex. Society? Research community? Should be beneficial whether you prove or disprove your hypothesis
  - Is the research feasible? What resources are available?

Research Proposal – student perspective

- Hook your reader early:
  - Introduction at "newspaper" level—more general
  - State importance of work quickly
  - Minimize use of jargon

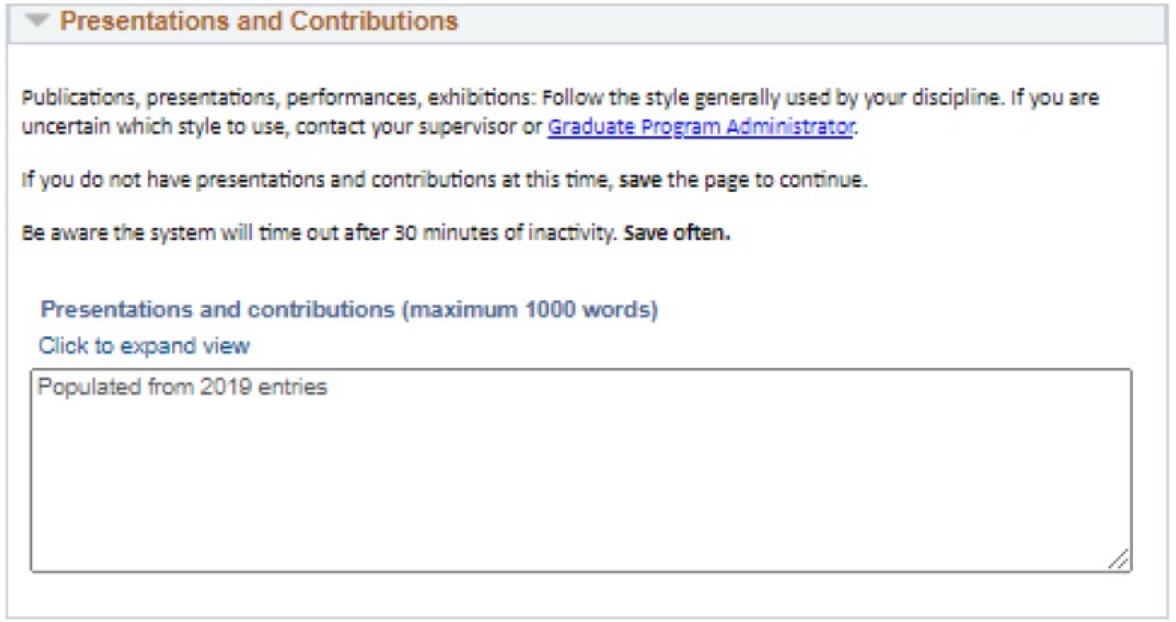
- Lay abstract is important!!!
  - Do not use this as the introduction to your proposal
  - Non-scientist should understand this abstract
    - Ask for a non-scientist friend/family member/partner to read

Research Proposal – student perspective

- Summary of do's and don'ts:
- **DO:**
  - Have multiple audiences review your proposal (Eg. peers, friends, partners).
  - Make sure your supervisor reviews the proposal.
    - If possible, meet in person to discuss.
  - Make each section clear and easy to follow.
    - Should have a flow regardless of how it is divided up.
- **DON'T:**
  - Use complicated or field specific jargon (better to use simple phrasing).
  - Forget to save your work!!!

Publications & Contributions

- Publications, presentations, performances and other contributions
  - Highlight your academic accomplishments
- **Provide as much background information as possible**
  - adjudicators outside of your discipline may not be aware of the **conferences** at which you have presented or the prominence of the **journal** in which you have been published.
- If there is not a specified format, follow the format most commonly used in your discipline.



Selection Criteria: online GAC reviewed at FGS

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  - Reference assessments (x2)
- 20% Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills
  - Leadership Statement
  - Reference assessments (x2)

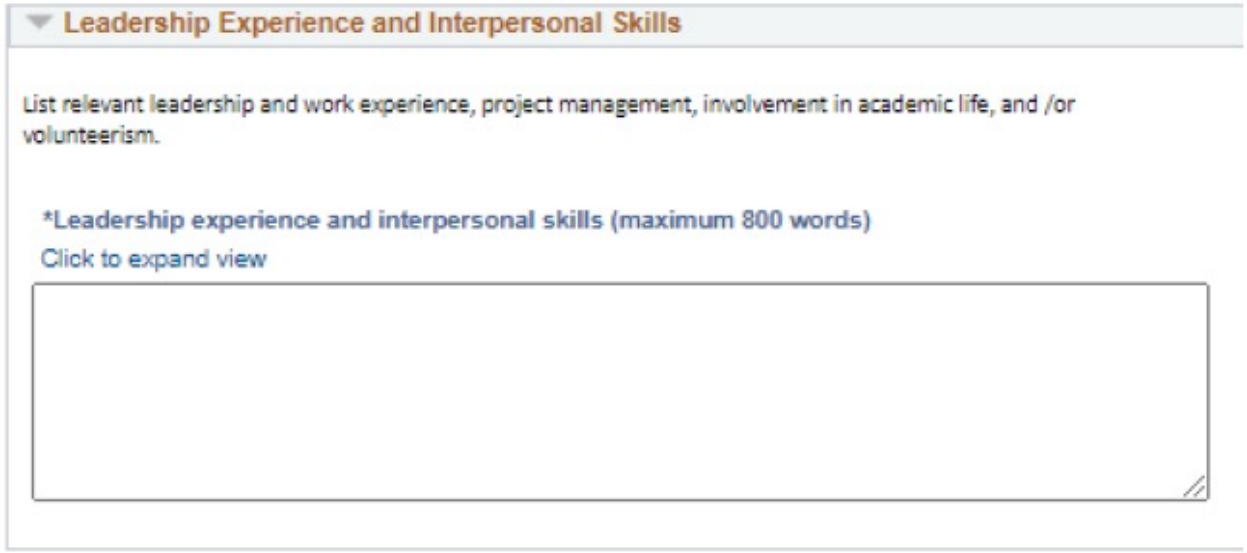
Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills (20%)

- As demonstrated by the applicant's communication skills, past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations
  - Work experience
  - Leadership experience
  - Project management including organizing conferences and meetings
  - The ability or potential to communicate and present theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats
  - Involvement in academic life
  - Volunteerism/community outreach

Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills

- Relevant:
  - Leadership
  - Work experience
  - Project management
  - Involvement in academic life
  - Volunteering

- 800 words



Relevant Experience – student perspective

- Use examples from academic and personal life.
  - Academic: TA courses, your lab experience, workshops, etc.
  - Personal: community volunteering, committees, mentoring, etc.

- Don’t try and stretch things too much.
  - Give solid examples, not ‘fluffy’ ones.

- Try to be diverse.
  - Ex. Leading workshop, volunteering at homeless shelter, vice-chair of a committee.

Allowable Inclusions

- When appropriate, outline extraordinary circumstances that may have delayed or interrupted:
  - 1) your completion of degree(s)
  - 2) record or research achievement
  - 3) your research career

- Extraordinary circumstances include care of **family members, illness, disability or other exceptional factors**.

- **Employment** while completing your degree **is not considered extraordinary.**

- 250 words (less than one page)

Allowable Inclusions: COVID

- Everybody has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

- Write about COVID-19, particularly if the pandemic has delayed your research due to:
  - increased care-taking responsibilities
  - public health restrictions related to your research (e.g., travel restrictions or access to laboratory samples or clinical participants)
  - Inability to complete training

Training Expectations: Harmonized Award Attachment

- GAC does not fully capture the diversity of student experiences
  - For example, delays in progress due to having to work are not considered in GAC
- Training Expectations section of Harmonized Award designed to remedy this
  - Modelled on Training Expectations section from CIHR Doctoral Awards
  - 800 words
- This is your chance to tell your story
  - What was your path to graduate school?
  - What challenges have you met?
  - What are your future plans?

Relevant experience and Training Expectations – student perspective

Beyond just listing them...

- What did you learn from these experiences?
  - What are your goals and how are you paving the way to that?
  - What skills did you learn that could also benefit you in research?
  - How these experiences fit within your research goals?
  - What were the throwbacks and how you overcame them?

- Have referees address achievements/setbacks in a way that is positive.

References

- Fill out online form with names, email, organization
  - select notify – they will receive an email with instructions and deadline
- Ensure referee confirms receipt of email request
  - It may end up in the junk/spam folder!
- You both will receive an email when submitted/completed
- If you recently applied to graduate school, may be able to use same references if less than 11 months old
  - First year students can opt to use admission letters.
  - In future years, you can delete and change your referees

References

Haley Alleson Vecchiarelli is applying for the 2019 Graduate Award Competition at the University of Calgary and has requested that you provide a scholarship reference. The deadline to provide the reference is **9 Jan 2019**.

E.g. not universal – check the specific deadline with your program

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy act (FOIP), the student gives you, the referee, consent to disclose personal information required to evaluate the application for scholarship purposes.

To complete the reference for this student, please click on this link: Online Reference Form

WARNING: if you are a University of Calgary faculty member and are currently logged into PeopleSoft, you must either logout of PeopleSoft or open an new browser before completing the Online Reference Form.

How to write a strong academic reference.

Please comment on the student's ability and potential in three areas, Academic Excellence, Research Potential, Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills. See Selection Criteria and Indicators for more details.

References

Do not just ask someone for a reference. Be proactive and make it easier for your referee to write a good assessment:

- Provide the review criteria.
- Provide transcripts and a CV: highlight areas you wish to have covered in the assessment.
- Meet to discuss: what criteria do you think they should address?
- Be strategic in choosing your referees in terms of covering the criteria.

Letter of reference

- Ask early!!! Give your referees some time (2 weeks *minimum,* most references require more, a good rule is 3-4 weeks).
- It is always a good idea to use your supervisor. If you are a new student, use this as an opportunity to discuss your goals for the next few years with your supervisor.

***** Follow up – Don't be shy! *****

- Remind your referees of the deadline a week or more before the reference is due.
  - Make sure correct deadline (Jan 9, 2022) is selected on reference request form.

Questions

Submitting your application

Before you submit…

Student Awards Application

go to ...

The Program Application Deadline will display "TBD" until you select at least one award in your online application.

If your program deadline expires, you will be unable to edit or submit the application.

The definition of application status can be found here

Your existing applications View All | First 1 of 1 Last

Award Year	Name	Application Number	Status			Program Application Deadline	
2019	Graduate Award Competition	10000420	In Progress	Edit	View	7 Jan 2019	Cancel

Create New Application

To create a new application, select one of the links below:

Graduate Award Competition

Before you submit…

- Review your application one last time, check for spelling, grammar, formatting or factual errors.
- Read the application instructions again
- Check the TO LIST - is it complete?
- You will increase your chance of success by following these tips and following the instructions exactly

- If you have questions: contact the
  - Graduate Award Office (FGS) at gsaward@ucalgary.ca.
  - GSE: awardsgse@ucalgary.ca
  - Libin or ACHRI for their awards

Resources

- Workshop slides emailed to all registrants and posted on GSE web page
- FGS will offer an Awards Workshop and the Graduate Leaders Circle (GLC) will host Scholarship Cafes and Drop-in sessions
  - Dates and registrations can be found on FGS website
  - https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/graduate-award-competition

GSE Scholarship And Stipend Officer

Over 10 years of experience processing/administering scholarships/award competitions, and processing student payments at the university of Calgary

Scholarship Officer (FGS)

- Graduate Award Competition (GAC)
- NSERC
- Travel Awards
- Alberta Innovates Technology Futures

Senior Research Grants Officer (RSO)

- MITACS
- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships
- HYRS
- Alberta Innovates SRS

GSE Scholarship And Stipend Officer

Role in GAC at the program level

- Assist GSE graduate programs with award training and communication
- Maintain GSE website with current scholarship information
- Run reports on the status of applicant's applications
- Coordinate application review between the various CSM Institutions
- Collect CSM Harmonized Award form from applicants

GSE Scholarship And Stipend Officer

Role in GAC at the student level

- Address questions regarding the application and CSM Harmonized Award form
- Collect the CSM Harmonized Award form from applicants, their supervisors, or supervisor’s administrators
- Upload applicant's transcripts to their application once they submit their application
- Assist with any questions regarding scholarship Terms of Reference
- Assist applicants with application submissions

Contact information

- Sex and Gender Course module link
  - https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49347.html
- GSE Scholarship Team
  - Rebekah DeVinney, Director, Scholarships
  - Cameron Vanderwey, Scholarship and Stipend Officer
  - awardsgse@ucalgary.ca
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute
  - Amanda Wagner, Research Officer
  - amanda.wagner@ucalgary.ca
- Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI)
  - Julia Klenin-MacLock, Manager, Research and Training
  - jklenin@ucalgary.ca
- Charbonneau Cancer Institute
  - Carmen Cohelo
  - ccoelho@ucalgary.ca
- Department of Medicine Scholarship
  - Phillipa Hazell
  - Phillippa.Hazell@albertahealthservices.ca

Good luck on your application!!